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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,325	12/14/2001	Bradley Taylor	MPT-003	4911

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EXAMINER

COULTER, KENNETH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/31/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/022,325	TAYLOR, BRADLEY
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kenneth R. Coulter	2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6, 11-16 and 25-27 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 7-10 and 17-20 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 – 6, 11 – 16 and 25 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cho (U.S. Pat. No. 5,978,452) (Voice Data Recording and Transmitting Method and Apparatus for Facsimile Linked to Personal Computer).

- 2.1 Regarding claim 1, Cho discloses a method of providing a fast path message transfer agent, the method comprising:

receiving bytes of a message over a network connection (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 - 64);

determining whether the number of bytes of the message exceeds a predetermined threshold of bytes set for a message, wherein if not, then writing the message only to a memory, and wherein if so, then writing the message to the memory and a non-volatile storage (lengthy “voice message” scenario considered; col. 4, lines 35 – 49 “**sending the overflow of voice messages from the voice message memory 130 to an auxiliary memory such as a *hard disk* of the PC 138 for storage.**”).

2.2 Per claim 2, Cho teaches the method of claim 1, wherein writing the message to the memory and the non-volatile storage includes:

writing a portion of the bytes up to the predetermined threshold to the memory; and storing a remainder of the bytes onto the non-volatile storage (col. 4, lines 35 – 49).

2.3 Regarding claim 3, Cho discloses the method of claim 2, wherein writing the message to the memory and the non-volatile storage further includes:

determining whether all bytes of the message have been received (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 49);

wherein if not, then receiving additional bytes of the message over the network connection (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 49); and

writing the additional bytes onto the non-volatile storage (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 49); and

wherein if so, then proceeding to re-route the message (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 49).

2.4 Per claim 4, Cho teaches the method of claim 3, wherein if the number of bytes is less than the predetermined threshold and all bytes of the message have been received, then proceeding to re-route the message (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 49).

2.5 Regarding claim 5, Cho discloses the method of claim 4, further including:

accessing the message (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 66);

sending the message to each destination (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 66); and

determining whether the message was received successfully by each destination (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 66 “alerting the user”).

2.6 Per claim 6, Cho teaches the method of claim 5, wherein if the message was received successfully by each destination, then

indicating a successful receipt of the message (Abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 58 – 64; col. 4, lines 35 – 66).

However, Cho does not explicitly disclose **deleting** the message from the memory and the non-volatile storage.

Such a scenario is inherent in clear the memory for later use with large messages.

2.7 Regarding claims 11 - 16 and 25 – 27, the rejection of claims 1 – 6 under 35 USC 102(b) (paragraphs 2.1 – 2.6 above) applies fully.

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3. Claims 1 – 6, 11 – 16 and 25 – 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stanczak et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,974,414) (System and Method for Automated Received Message Handling and Distribution).

3.1 Regarding claim 1, Stanczak discloses a method of providing a fast path message transfer agent, the method comprising:

receiving bytes of a message over a network connection (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 - 24);

determining whether the number of bytes of the message exceeds a predetermined threshold of bytes set for a message, wherein if not, then writing the message only to a memory, and wherein if so, then writing the message to the memory and a secondary storage (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65 “If the number of DEMs in the DMQ 415 reaches the warning threshold ...”; “messages can be moved from one queue to another (less busy queue) either manually or automatically, when a particular threshold is reached.”).

However, Stanczak does not explicitly disclose that the secondary storage is a non-volatile storage.

It would have been inherent to implement a non-volatile storage as the secondary storage in Stanczak because a large, inexpensive non-volatile storage (such as a hard disc) may be necessary to handle large messages that have overflowed in the primary storage.

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3.2 Per claim 2, Stanczak teaches the method of claim 1, wherein writing the message to the memory and the non-volatile storage includes:

writing a portion of the bytes up to the predetermined threshold to the memory; and storing a remainder of the bytes onto the secondary (non-volatile) storage (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65).

3.3 Regarding claim 3, Stanczak discloses the method of claim 2, wherein writing the message to the memory and the non-volatile storage further includes:

determining whether all bytes of the message have been received (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65); wherein if not, then receiving additional bytes of the message over the network connection (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65); and

writing the additional bytes onto the non-volatile storage (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65); and wherein if so, then proceeding to re-route the message (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65).

3.4 Per claim 4, Stanczak teaches the method of claim 3, wherein if the number of bytes is less than the predetermined threshold and all bytes of the message have been received, then proceeding to re-route the message (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65).

3.5 Regarding claim 5, Stanczak discloses the method of claim 4, further including:
accessing the message (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17
– 26 and 46 – 65);
sending the message to each destination (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 –
24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65); and
determining whether the message was received successfully by each destination
(Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines 13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65).

3.6 Per claim 6, Stanczak teaches the method of claim 5, wherein if the message
was received successfully by each destination, then
indicating a successful receipt of the message (Abstract; Figs. 4, 5; col. 5, lines
13 – 24; col. 8, lines 17 – 26 and 46 – 65).

However, Stanczak does not explicitly disclose **deleting** the message from the memory
and the non-volatile storage.

Such a scenario is inherent in clear the memory for later use with large messages.

3.7 Regarding claims 11 - 16 and 25 – 27, the rejection of claims 1 – 6 under 35
USC 102(b) (paragraphs 3.1 – 3.6 above) applies fully.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/3/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's arguments, Examiner points to the rejection of claims 1 – 6, 11 - 16 and 25 – 27 under 35 USC 102(b) above.

Applicant argues that Cho does not teach determining if the number of bytes of the message exceeds a predetermined threshold of bytes set for a message.

Examiner disagrees.

Although not explicitly taught by Cho, the "overflow of voice messages" could simply be a single lengthy voice message. In this scenario, a single lengthy voice message exceeds the capacity of the "voice message memory 130". Therefore, "the overflow is forwarded to an auxiliary memory such as a hard disk of the PC 138." (see col. 4, lines 35 – 49).

This scenario fits the number of bytes of a message exceeding a predetermined threshold; and writing the message to a memory and a non-volatile storage.

Applicant argues that Stanczak does not teach determining if the number of bytes of the message exceeds a predetermined threshold of bytes set for a message.

Examiner disagrees.

Although not explicitly taught by Stanczak, an overflow of messages implies that a number of bytes of the message exceeds the threshold.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7 – 10 and 17 – 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth R. Coulter whose telephone number is 571 272-3879. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 7:30 am - 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

krc

KENNETH R. COULTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

